

What is Claimed is:

1. A method of enabling at least one functional block having an identifier for a controller having a unique identification, said method comprising the steps of:
 - encoding an enable code for the functional block of said controller based upon the unique identification of said controller and the identifier of said functional block;
 - decoding the enable code for the functional block of said controller to obtain a decoded identification and a decoded identifier; and
 - enabling the functional block of said controller when said decoded identification is equal to said unique identification and said decoded identifier is equal to the identifier of said functional block.
2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - selling the enable code for the functional block of said controller based upon the unique identification of said controller and the identifier of said functional block.
3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - purchasing the enable code for the functional block of said controller based upon the unique identification of said controller and the identifier of said functional block.
4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - employing a plurality of said functional blocks;
 - enabling at least one of said functional blocks in said controller;
 - and
 - disabling at least one of said functional blocks in said controller.
5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - entering the identifier of said functional block and the unique identification of said controller into an encoder;
 - encoding a purchase code as said enable code from the identifier of said functional block and the unique identification of said controller; and
 - selling said purchase code.

6. The method of Claim 5 further comprising:
sending the purchase code to a customer.
7. The method of Claim 6 further comprising:
employing one of a telephone, a facsimile, an electronic mail message, and a letter to send the purchase code to the customer.
8. The method of Claim 6 further comprising:
storing the purchase code on a memory device; and
sending the memory device to the customer.
9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising:
employing a disk as said memory device.
10. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
displaying an error message when said decoded identification is not equal to said unique identification.
11. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
displaying an error message when said decoded identifier is not equal to the identifier of said functional block.
12. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
employing said encoding step remotely from said decoding step.
13. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
employing at least one of said encoding step and said decoding step on a personal computer.
14. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
employing an encryption algorithm having a secret key as said encoding step; and
employing a corresponding decryption algorithm having said secret key as said decoding step.
15. The method of Claim 14 further comprising:
employing a block number as the identifier of said functional block;

employing a unique controller number as the unique identification of said controller;

inputting the block number and the unique controller number into said encryption algorithm;

outputting a purchase code as said enable code from said encryption algorithm;

inputting said purchase code into said decryption algorithm;

outputting a decrypted block number and a decrypted controller number from said decryption algorithm; and

enabling the functional block of said controller when said decrypted block number is equal to said identifier of said functional block and said decrypted controller number is equal to said unique identification.

16. The method of Claim 5 further comprising:

employing an application area in said controller;

loading an application including said at least one of said functional blocks to said application area; and

executing said application in said controller.

17. The method of Claim 16 further comprising:

employing a configuration file including at least some of said functional blocks;

checking said configuration file for unpurchased functional blocks; and

purchasing one of said unpurchased functional blocks.

18. The method of Claim 17 further comprising:

checking said configuration file for another one of said unpurchased functional blocks; and

purchasing said another one of said unpurchased functional blocks.

19. The method of Claim 15 further comprising:

displaying the unique controller number and the block number;

informing a supplier of said unique controller number and said block number; and

inputting said unique controller number and said block number into said encryption algorithm at a facility of said supplier.